

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-25 were pending in the present application. By way of the Reply to the Restriction Requirement of October 9, 2003, claims 1-6, 10, and 11 were elected for continued prosecution without traverse, and also claims 7-9, 12, and 13 were withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species, but covered generically by claims also drawn to the elected species. Claims 14-25 drawn to non-elected species, but not covered generically by claims also drawn to non-elected species, were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. The amendment is fully supported by the original specification and no new matter has been added. Applicant notes that the amendment is not made in view of prior art.

Objections

The drawings are objected to for Figures 1-7 lacking the designation "Prior Art." The drawings have been amended in this reply. In view of the amendment, this objection is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The disclosure of the abstract is objected to as being improperly formatted. The abstract has been amended in this reply. In view of the amendment, this objection is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The title of the invention is objected to as being not descriptive. The title of the invention has been amended in this reply. In view of the amendment, this objection is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C § 112

Claims 2-6, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In view of the amendment to claim 1, on which these claims, directly or indirectly, depend, this rejection is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1-6, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,965,865 (“Trenary”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,324,368 (“Masumoto”). For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites a structure of a probe card for testing an integrated circuit. Specifically, claim 1 includes the limitation “wherein said contactor is made of an amorphous material comprising a supercooled liquid phase region and contacted to said contact terminal provided on said circuit under test.” Advantageously, this allows for a contactor having substantially no grain boundary thereon, and prevents its scrapes from entering into the grain boundaries. Accordingly, the contactor as recited in claim 1 can

effectively transmit an electrical signal to the circuit under test without increasing its resistivity.

Applicants respectfully submit that without the benefit of the present specification there exists nothing that would lead one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Masumoto and Trenary, and there must be some suggestion or motivation to combine the reference teachings to support a proper obviousness rejection.

In contrast to the present invention, and as explicitly noted by the Examiner, Trenary does not disclose the limitation of claim 1 discussed above. Trenary merely discloses a structure of a probe card 10 including a dielectric substrate 12 and a probe 26. Furthermore, Trenary fails to recognize the problems being solved by, or appreciate the advantages provided by, the present invention as recited in claim 1. In fact, the only mention of material properties in Trenary is that the probe 26 may be made from a suitable material, such as beryllium copper, preferably having resilient properties. See, for example, col. 3, lines 29-31.

Additionally, Masumoto also fails to provide any teaching that would lead one skilled in the art to combine the references. Masumoto merely discloses a process for forming plate-like formed products from amorphous alloy materials. Specifically, Masumoto discloses that various amorphous alloy materials, obtained by continuous or discontinuous casting, are each heated to a glass transition temperature range specific to the material, and, then, formed by using its properties as a supercooled liquid in the temperature range. Masumoto also completely fails to recognize the problems being solved by, or appreciate the advantages provided by, the present invention as recited in claim 1. The general recitation in Masumoto cited by the Examiner that the “formed

amorphous alloys can be used as mechanical structure parts and components of high strength and high corrosion resistance, various strength members, electronic parts, arts and crafts, original printing plates, or the like” is the statement remotely relating to the field of endeavor of the present invention, and falls far short of teaching or suggesting the nature of the problem to be solved regarding the present invention.

Moreover, Masumoto is not only wholly unrelated to the present invention recited in claim 1, but also, it is nonanalogous art to the present invention. Applicants respectfully note that a prior art reference is analogous if the reference is in the field of Applicants’ endeavor or, if not, the reference is reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned. Neither requirement is true with respect to Masumoto. Accordingly, there is nothing, other than impermissible hindsight based on Applicants’ own disclosure, that would support the combining of Trenary and Masumoto.

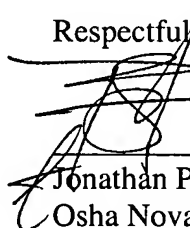
For at least the above reasons, obviousness cannot be established based on the combination of Trenary and Masumoto. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Trenary and Masumoto. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 02008.073001).

Date: 4/7/04

Respectfully submitted,


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